
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 391 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, DILLON, TARTAGLIONE,
CAPPELLETTI, COMITTA, COSTA AND KEARNEY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for emergency addiction
3 treatment; and imposing powers and duties on the Department
4 of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 83

10 EMERGENCY ADDICTION TREATMENT

11 Subchapter

12 A. Preliminary Provisions

13 B. Program

14 SUBCHAPTER A

15 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

16 Sec.

17 8301. Scope of chapter.

18 8302. Definitions.

19 § 8301. Scope of chapter.

1 This chapter relates to emergency addiction treatment.

2 § 8302. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Department." The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs of
7 the Commonwealth.

8 "Program." The Emergency Addiction Treatment Program
9 established in section 8310 (relating to Emergency Addiction
10 Treatment Program).

11 SUBCHAPTER B

12 PROGRAM

13 Sec.

14 8310. Emergency Addiction Treatment Program.

15 § 8310. Emergency Addiction Treatment Program.

16 (a) Establishment.--The Emergency Addiction Treatment
17 Program is established in the department to provide addiction
18 treatment in licensed long-term residential addiction treatment
19 facilities, including licensed halfway houses, for individuals
20 who are unable to obtain timely or appropriate treatment, as
21 determined by the department, and to establish treatment
22 facilities. The program shall be administered by the department.

23 (b) Powers and duties of department.--In order to provide
24 individuals seeking assistance with better and more timely
25 access to drug and alcohol addiction treatment, the department
26 shall:

27 (1) Maintain a toll-free telephone number to assist
28 individuals seeking help for drug and alcohol problems. The
29 telephone number shall be posted on the department's publicly
30 accessible Internet website and shall be posted or published

1 by the department in other media as the department determines
2 is necessary to reach as many individuals as possible.

3 (2) Provide assistance in accessing addiction treatment.
4 The department may provide this service by contract.

5 (3) Develop and maintain a database identifying problems
6 and patterns in accessing appropriate addiction treatment.

7 (4) Develop and provide a program to educate and counsel
8 families with addiction problems on how to prevent and treat
9 addiction.

10 (5) Prepare an annual report to the General Assembly on
11 the activities described in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3),
12 including recommendations for improving access to addiction
13 treatment. The report shall be posted on the department's
14 publicly accessible Internet website.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.